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UNSATISFACTORY FALL WORK IN USSR AGRICULTURE;
NEW ELECTRIC TRACTOR STATIONS

[Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.]

USSR Crop Progress Report Dated 3 October 1952

A number of areas and oblasts are lagging in the performance of important agricultural work. The grain harvest has not been completed in Kalininskaya, Smolenskaya, Yaroslavskaya, and some other oblasts. Potatoes are being dug very slowly in Tambovskaya, Penzenskaya, Gor'kovskaya, Ivanovskaya, Velikolukskaya, and other oblasts. Orlovskaya, Chkalovskaya, and Kaluzhskaya oblasts are seriously behind in the procurement of fodder for collectivized livestock. In a number of areas, plowing of winter fallow is proceeding slowly; in Rostovskaya Oblast, for example, 500,000 less hectares had been plowed as of 30 September than as of the same date in 1951.

Lagging field work is explained to a considerable extent by serious deficiencies in the work of agricultural organs. At the recent rayon, oblast, and kray party conferences and union-republic party congresses, party committee speeches directed a number of sharp criticisms at the agricultural organs. It was noted that formalistic and bureaucratic methods of supervision still prevail and that personal organizational work is replaced with a stream of orders and regulations, execution of which is frequently inadequately verified. The workers of divisions, administrations, and ministries of agriculture are often unfamiliar with kolkhoz and MTS life, seldom visit them, and are unacquainted with actual situations. Agricultural organs often do not pay necessary attention to selection and training of kolkhoz chairmen, MTS directors and other MTS workers, and agricultural specialists. They are often little concerned with the growth and general development of a collectivized kolkhoz economy.

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Among the agricultural organs subjected to sharp criticisms at party conferences or congresses were the Ministry of Agriculture Belorussian SSR, Tambovskaya Oblast Administration of Agriculture, and Gor'kovskaya Oblast Administration of Agriculture.(1)

In 1952, the gross grain harvest amounted to 8 billion pud, including a gross wheat harvest which exceeded that of 1940 by 48 percent.(2)

During the postwar Five-Year Plan, the area sown to cotton increased 91 percent and thereby surpassed the prewar area. The gross raw cotton harvest in 1950 exceeded the figure set for this year in the Fourth Five-Year Plan by 650,000 metric tons.(3)

The gross sugar beet harvest in the USSR increased 1.7 times as a result of fulfillment of the postwar Five-Year Plan. It increased again in 1951.(4)

In 1952, more than 1,700 cotton-harvesting machines will be in operation on sovkhoz fields.(3)

In recent years, construction has been completed and operation begun of state rural hydroelectric stations in a number of oblasts, kr-ys, and republics. Examples are the 230-kilowatt Krutoyarskaya GES in Bryanskaya Oblast; the 175-kilowatt Dolgovskaya GES in Kurganskaya Oblast; the Korzhovskaya GES, the Dmitrenkovskaya GES, and the Nizovskaya GES in the Ukraine; and the Kamenskaya GES in Kazakhstan. In addition, a large number of new kolkhoz hydroelectric and steam electric power stations has gone into operation, including a considerable number of sufficient capacity to serve several kolkhozes. A 300-kilowatt inter-kolkhoz hydroelectric station is under construction at present on the shore of Lake Drisvyat in Polotskaya Oblast, Belorussian SSR; it is being constructed jointly by kolkhozes of Belorussia, Lithuania, and Latvia; its builders have pledged to have it in operation by 5 December.(1)

Ukrainian SSR

By 27 September, maize was being harvested in Odesskaya Oblast. The crop is generally good. Many kolkhozes are harvesting 200-250 and even 300 pud per hectare.(5)

As the principal beet-growing region of the USSR, the Ukraine produced 37 million more quintals of sugar beets in 1951 than in 1940.(4)

Armenian SSR

Kolkhozes of the republic have grown a sugar beet crop which is considerably better than that of 1951; 50 percent more beet-harvesting machines, some of which dig four rows at one time, will be used than in 1951.(4)

RSFSR

Mass harvesting of rice had begun in kolkhozes of Astrakhanskaya Oblast by 29 September.(6)

Dagestan is one of the new cotton-growing regions of the USSR. In 1952, kolkhozes have grown a crop 1.5 times greater than in 1951.(1)

MTS and MZhS (mechanized animal husbandry stations) of Dagestanskaya ASSR had fulfilled the 1952 fall plan for electric shearing of sheep by 26 September, when 305,000 head of sheep had been shorn. The stations have pledged to shear 100,000 head above plan by 5 October.(7)

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Kolkhozes of Kurskaya Oblast have grown a good crop of clover and other perennial grass seed in 1952. But harvesting of the seed has been poorly organized in many areas; as of 20 September, only one third of the perennial grass seed had been harvested.(1)

The grain harvest is proceeding under very difficult conditions in Krasnoyarskiy Kray. Frequent rains hinder normal operation of harvesting machines. The grain contains up to 30 percent moisture as it comes from the combines.

In sovkhozes of the kray as a whole, the harvest is proceeding very unsatisfactorily. It has been in progress for 6 weeks and one half of the grain is still standing. The best fields have not been harvested.(8)

Average yield of oil flax seed on variety-experimentation fields in Novosibirskaya Oblast was 14.1 quintals per hectare over a period of 8 years. In leading kolkhozes of this oblast, the yield ranges between 10 and 17.1 quintals per hectare. False flax (*Camelina sativa*) seed yields of 10-12 quintals per hectare were obtained in Novosibirskaya, Omskaya, and Irkutskaya oblasts and Altayskiy and Krasnoyarskiy krais. In individual kolkhozes, yields of this crop were as high as 19-20 quintals per hectare.(1)

In putting the Stalin Transformation of Nature Plan into effect, kolkhozes of Orlovskaya Oblast have constructed ponds with a total area of more than 2,500 hectares.(6)

In most rayons of Pskovskaya Oblast, kolkhozes and MTS had procured by 29 September only one third of the coarse fodder and only one half of the ensilage needed to fill requirements.(6)

About 160 kolkhozes, 40 MTS, and more than 35 sovkhozes are to be electrified in the irrigated zone of Rostovskaya Oblast on the basis of the Tsimlyanskaya Hydroelectric Power Plant.

Electric power lines are now being built to the sites of future EMTS (electric MTS). Six of these will be created along the Don; construction of two stations is to be finished in 1952. In the spring of 1953, Mechetnovskaya EMTS will already perform the field work for the kolkhoz imeni Molotov in Semikarakorskiy Rayon. While construction of the second station, Dubentsovskaya EMTS, has only begun, field work in some kolkhozes of Romanovski Rayon will be performed by electric tractors next spring. Preparations for construction of the third and fourth stations are under way; they are to be in operation in 1953.(9)

Selective harvesting of maize had begun in kolkhozes of the Severo-Osetinskaya ASSR by 29 September. After the ears have been snapped, the stalks are cut and hauled to livestock farms to serve as fodder.(6)

In Smolenskaya Oblast, flax and all grain crops ripened simultaneously. On the 5th day after the harvest began, heavy rains fell which soaked the soil and made use of harvesting machinery difficult. Harvesting is lagging very badly in the oblast; further delay could result in great losses. It is of utmost importance that all harvesting machinery, combines, reapers, and simple machines be in operation at full capacity.(10)

Ambitious plans are being devised for the development of vegetable growing in the rayons surrounding the city of Stalingrad, especially in the Volga-Akhtuba Bottom. When the Stalingrad Hydroelectric Power Plant goes into operation, up to 50,000 hectares of land are to be irrigated in these rayons; of these, it is planned to devote about 5,500 hectares to orchards and vineyards and up to 18,000

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hectares to vegetable and potato culture. With areas of such size under irrigated cultivation, it will be possible to satisfy fully the demand of the city and surrounding rayon population for potatoes, vegetables, fruits, and grapes and also assure supplies for the canning industry.(7)

By 29 September, kolkhozes of Tambovskaya Oblast had completed harvesting grain and legume crops; 86 percent of the grain crops were combined.(11)

In 1952, electric shearing of sheep was carried out on a wide scale for the first time in kolkhozes of the Tatarskaya ASSR. The state plan for electric shearing had been successfully fulfilled by 26 September.(7)

Kolkhozes of the Udmurtskaya ASSR were completing harvesting of grain crops and flax by 29 September.(11)

In 1951, kolkhozes of Voronezhskaya Oblast built 446 ponds. In the summer of 1952, 170 were built; by the end of the year, 200 must be under construction.(12)

Kazakh SSR

In the southern regions of the republic, mass digging of potatoes was in progress by 27 September.(7)

Kolkhozes of Vostochno-Kazakhstanskaya Oblast had begun harvesting sunflowers by 25 September. The entire crop in the oblast is being cut and threshed by combine, speeding up the harvest and minimizing seed losses. First results indicate that the crop will be considerably better than in 1951.(4)

During the last several days, Kzyl-Kishlaksкая GES in Sayramskiy Rayon, Yuzhno-Kazakhstanskaya Oblast, went in operation; this is the eighth kolkhoz GES in the rayon. Test operation of a station in Kolkhoz imeni Molotov, Makanchinskiy Rayon, Semipalatinskaya Oblast, has begun. The Dzerzhinskaya GES, in Taldy-Kurganskaya Oblast, which will provide power for the rayon center and three kolkhozes, is being readied for operation. Construction of the Kaskelenskaya Interkolkhoz GES in Alma-Atinskaya Oblast, which will serve five consolidated kolkhozes, has been completed.(13)

Uzbek SSR

Conversion to the new system of irrigation which began 2 years ago in kolkhozes of the republic has not yet been completed. The total area of enlarged irrigated fields (20-40 hectares each) is now 440,000 hectares. This entire area is devoted to cotton and alfalfa.

Kolkhozes and MTS have moved 90 million cubic meters of earth by machinery. Simultaneously with earth-moving operations, mulberry trees were moved to new locations; so far, 500,000 trees have been moved.(12)

Tadzhik SSR

Kolkhozes in southern Tadzhikistan have begun sowing alfalfa into standing cotton. It is planned to sow alfalfa according to this method on 5,000 more hectares than in 1951.(13)

Kirgiz SSR

Harvesting of cotton by machine had begun in kolkhozes of Oshskaya Oblast by 26 September. Mechanized harvesting will be carried out on an area twice as large as in 1951. Almost 80 percent of the leaf removal work was performed with airplanes.(3)

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